

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn): A method of attaching a plastic component to a metal component comprising the steps of:

providing a metal component having a first opening therein;

placing the metal component in a die;

positioning a tool on one side of the first opening; and

molding the plastic component about at least a portion of the metal component and through the first opening, such that plastic component forms a flange on one side of the first opening for securing the plastic component with the metal component.

15. (Withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein the first opening is defined by an edge and said method further comprises curving the edge.

16. (Withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein the metal component comprises a closed cross section.

17. (Withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein said metal component includes a second opening defined by a second edge.

18. (Withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 17 further comprising bending the second edge of the metal component.

19. (Withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 17 further comprising positioning the tool on one side of the first opening by inserting the tool through the second opening.

20. (Withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 14 further comprising molding ribs into the plastic component.

21. (Withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the flange extends beyond the edge of the first opening.

22. (Previously Presented): An integral plastic and metal part comprising:
a metal component having a closed cross section defining an interior and exterior and having a first opening ~~therein from the interior to the exterior~~ defining edges and a second opening opposite said first opening for allowing a core tool to be inserted into said interior of said metal component during a molding operation; and

a plastic component disposed about at least a portion of said exterior of said metal component, a portion of said plastic material extending disposed through said first opening and including a flange ~~on said interior thereof~~ extending beyond said edges of said lower opening and into said interior of said metal component for securing said plastic component ~~with~~ to said metal component in ~~fixed relationship~~ therebetween;

wherein said plastic component includes at least one integrally formed connection member extending outwardly therefrom, said at least one connection member having an area defining at least one connection portion formed therein, wherein said at least one connection portion is operable to receive a fastening member so as to permit said plastic component to be fastened to at least one other component.

23 (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented): A part as set forth in claim 22 wherein said flange is rectangular.

25 (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented): A part as set forth in claim 22 wherein said plastic part includes ribs.

27-28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented): A part as set forth in claim 22 wherein said edge of said first opening is curved.

30. (Previously Presented): A part as set forth in claim 29 wherein said flange extends beyond said curved edge of said first opening.

31. (Currently Amended): A part as set forth in claim ~~27~~ 22 wherein said second opening is defined by a second edge in said metal component, said second edge being folded.

32. (Previously Presented): A part as set forth in claim 22 wherein said plastic part includes attachment holes therethrough.

33. (Previously Presented): A part as set forth in claim 22 wherein said first opening comprises a series of openings.